

House History: 7 Theodore St, Balmain

The good ship *Albert*

Mark Calabretta mark@calabretta.id.au

BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

v1.0, 12 June 2024

1 7 Theodore St, Balmain

For several decades beginning in the mid-1870s, salty sea air permeated the north-eastern quarter of Theodore St, Balmain. A stretch of houses there was much favoured by master mariners and ship builders, though it's not entirely clear why this should have been so. Unlikely as it may seem today, in the late 19th century the northern side of Theodore St had a clear view across to Glebe Island and the surrounding waters of Johnstons and White Bays (Image 4). That probably explains why it was developed well before the southern side, and perhaps also why it may have been attractive for seafarers.

Captain John Smith (c1836-1917) was the particular master mariner responsible for the construction of 7 Theodore St, which he named *Albert cottage*. After residing there for twenty or so years, his place was taken in 1898 by **Captain Michael Driscoll** (1854-1929), see Image 1.

Smith's next-door neighbours were **Captain William Joseph Rendell** (1845-1929) in *Salem cottage* and **Captain William Lelliott** (1841-1916) in *Fern cottage*. Other mariners and shipwrights occupied the row of houses down to what is now No. 17, occupied by sailor **William John McClenaghan** (1859-1938). This situation persisted until the end of the century, the seafarers slowly drifting away thereafter. Lelliott had resided at No. 9 for forty years when he died there in 1916. Driscoll, the last remaining, moved away to Five Dock in 1924.

With the departure of the old sea dogs, residence of *Albert cottage* was taken up by **John Robert Wheeler** (1881-1947) and family. His occupation is given variously as slaughterman or labourer. After he died in Balmain Hospital, his widow Alice, daughter Nancy, and at various times, son Frank, resided in the cottage until the mid-1950s.

As for precise dates, there is an uncertainty of a year or two as to when *Albert cottage* was built. The Torrens certificate of title confirming Capt. John Smith's ownership is dated 26 August 1878, but the Sands Directory already lists him in Theodore St in 1877. That means he must have been there by October 1876, as information for the Sands had to be collected in time for it to be typeset and published at the start of the new year. A copy of Mary T. Smith's birth certificate, registered at Balmain on 1 February 1876, may help to clarify matters. See Section 9.

LATE CAPTAIN DRISCOLL.

◆

Captain Driscoll, a well-known master mariner, died at a private hospital in Darlinghurst yesterday morning at the age of 75 years. He was one of the first shipowners to carry timber from Tasmania, and owned several vessels. He had lately resided at Aloha, Lyons-road, Fivedock.



At the age of 15 years Captain Driscoll was master of a four-ton cutter engaged in carrying provisions to and from Hobart. His initiation into the life of a seaman was made in the cutter which traded along the rugged coastline of Tasmania in all weathers with cargoes of produce. Some time later he carried cargoes of pine in the ketch Korunah to Port Davey. Captain Driscoll subsequently built a vessel which he called the *Lily May*, and after trading successfully in her for some years purchased the ketch *Coral*, in which he came to Sydney. This vessel was lost in a gale. After operating other vessels he took command of the *Commonwealth*, a wooden steamer owned by John Breckenridge and Sons. When the *Commonwealth* was sold he took command of the *Jap*, a vessel that had been transformed from a three-masted schooner into a steamer. He had command of her for many years. In 1923 Captain Driscoll retired after 54 years at sea.

He is survived by five sons, Messrs. H. M., D., and J. Driscoll, who are well known in the timber trade in Sydney, Mr. C. W. Driscoll, of Melbourne, and Mr. John Driscoll, of Sydney. There are four daughters, Mrs. John Hay, Mrs. T. G. Cooper, Mrs. P. De Verdic, of Sydney, and Mrs. R. Kirk, who lives in Tasmania.

The funeral will leave the residence at 3.15 p.m. to-day for the Field of Mars Cemetery.

Image 1: Obituary of Capt. Michael Driscoll in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 September 1929, p15. Trove: [news-article16584622](https://trove.nla.gov.au/news-article/16584622)

Theodore St is first mentioned in the Balmain "Street Key" in the 1876 Sands Directory, but no one in the alphabetical directory of Balmain householders is listed residing there – so that would have been prior to October 1875. At that time it was probably just a rough track formed in preparation for land sales. Lelliott's obituary (Image 2) states that he resided at *Fern cottage* "for just on forty years", which means he would have been there in 1876. In any case, assigning a date of 1876 for *Albert cottage* should not be too far wrong.

Quite a few children were born in the cottage in the early days, and sadly several of them also died there. Captain John Smith's wife **Mary Ann née Warrington** (1844-1936) bore four children: **Mary T.** (1876-1876), **Florence May** (1872-1892), **Ernest James** (1880-1881), and **Alice Mary** (1881-1898).

Capt. Michael Driscoll and his wife **Mary née Allen** (1856-1936) already had seven children when they emigrated from Tasmania. Four more are registered as Balmain births: **Annie** (1894-1894), **Coral** (1895-1968), **Henry James** (1898-1945), and **Ethel** (1902-1902). However, it seems that only the latter two were born in *Albert cottage*. A copy of their birth certificates would resolve any uncertainties. See Section 10.

Of the five children of John Wheeler and his wife **Alice Ann née Luxford** (1885-1953), the youngest was already ten years of age when the family moved into *Albert cottage*. The eldest had only just married and left home.

Refer to Section 9 for genealogies of these three families.

The shocking number of infant deaths in the above list is not exceptional and highlights the parlous state of sanitation in Balmain at this time, as in the rest of Sydney. This was to be rectified in the 1890s as Balmain was connected progressively to the sewer system, as related in *Getting to the Bottom of Balmain's Dummies* by Fergus Fricke (2012), available from the Balmain Association.

Turning now to the history of the land title, it is well-known local history that Governor John Hunter granted "550 acres" of Aboriginal land to First Fleet surgeon, **Dr. William Balmain** (1762-1803), on 26 April 1800. (It was actually closer to 890 acres.) Excluding Whitfield's Farm (later Birch Grove) on Long Nose Point, this comprised everything east of what is now Foucart and Manning Sts, Rozelle. These together are occupied today by the suburbs of Balmain East, Balmain, Birchgrove, and Rozelle.

Fifteen months later, on 7 July 1801, Balmain "sold" this land to **John Borthwick Gilchrist** (1759-1841) for the nominal sum of five shillings. This perplexing transaction is unravelled by Peter Reynolds and Paul Flottmann, exposing corruption in high places and its sorry aftermath, in *Half a Thousand Acres: Balmain, a History of the Land Grant* (1976), available from the Balmain Association.

Gilchrist subdivided and, commencing on 24 October 1836, sold off those parts of his estate east of what is now Gladstone Park. However, after his death in 1841, protracted legal wrangling by Balmain's heirs forced the postponement of further land sales until October 1852.

Death of Captain Lelliott.



Late Capt. Wm. Lelliott.

The death of Captain William Lelliott, which recently took place at his residence, Fern Cottage, Theodore-street, Balmain (near Sydney), removes not only a shipping identity, but an old resident of Balmain. Born in Sussex, he arrived in New South Wales in 1862, and was in his 76th year when he died. For just on forty years the captain had been a resident of the house in which he died

Image 2: Obituary of Capt. William Lelliott, *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 6 December 1916, p30 (Trove: [news-article263605911](https://trove.nla.gov.au/news-article263605911)). A more detailed obituary may be found in the *Evening News*, 28 November 1916, p7 (Trove: [news-article114374853](https://trove.nla.gov.au/news-article114374853)).

Theodore St lies in Section 7, the island defined by Darling and Beattie Sts, in the new subdivision for the sale of the rest of the Balmain Estate. In turn it was subdivided into 20 Lots, most of which were sold at about this time. An appeal by Balmain's heirs then delayed further sales of land in the Balmain Estate until it was determined by the Privy Council in 1858.

Those Lots in Section 7 of interest were bought by **Sir William Montagu Manning** (1811-1895), barrister and Solicitor General of NSW, as seen in Image 5. Of the land surrounding Manning's, Lots 2 & 3 were bought by **William Norman Llewellyn** (c1818-1885), and Lots 6, 14, & 15 by **Theodore James Jacques** (1823-1893).

Allowance was made for major thoroughfares, such as Darling, Beattie, Mullens, and Rowntree Sts, in surveyor Charles Langley's subdivision of the Balmain Estate, so that each of the 47 Sections was bounded by roads. However, land purchasers were expected to make provision for roads within each Section. In this respect Section 7 is odd. It was easily the largest of the 47 Sections, primarily because there was no connection between Mullens and Rowntree Sts! It fell to Manning and Llewellyn to provide the land for what became Montague St, a main arterial road, as well as the usual residential roads and back lanes.

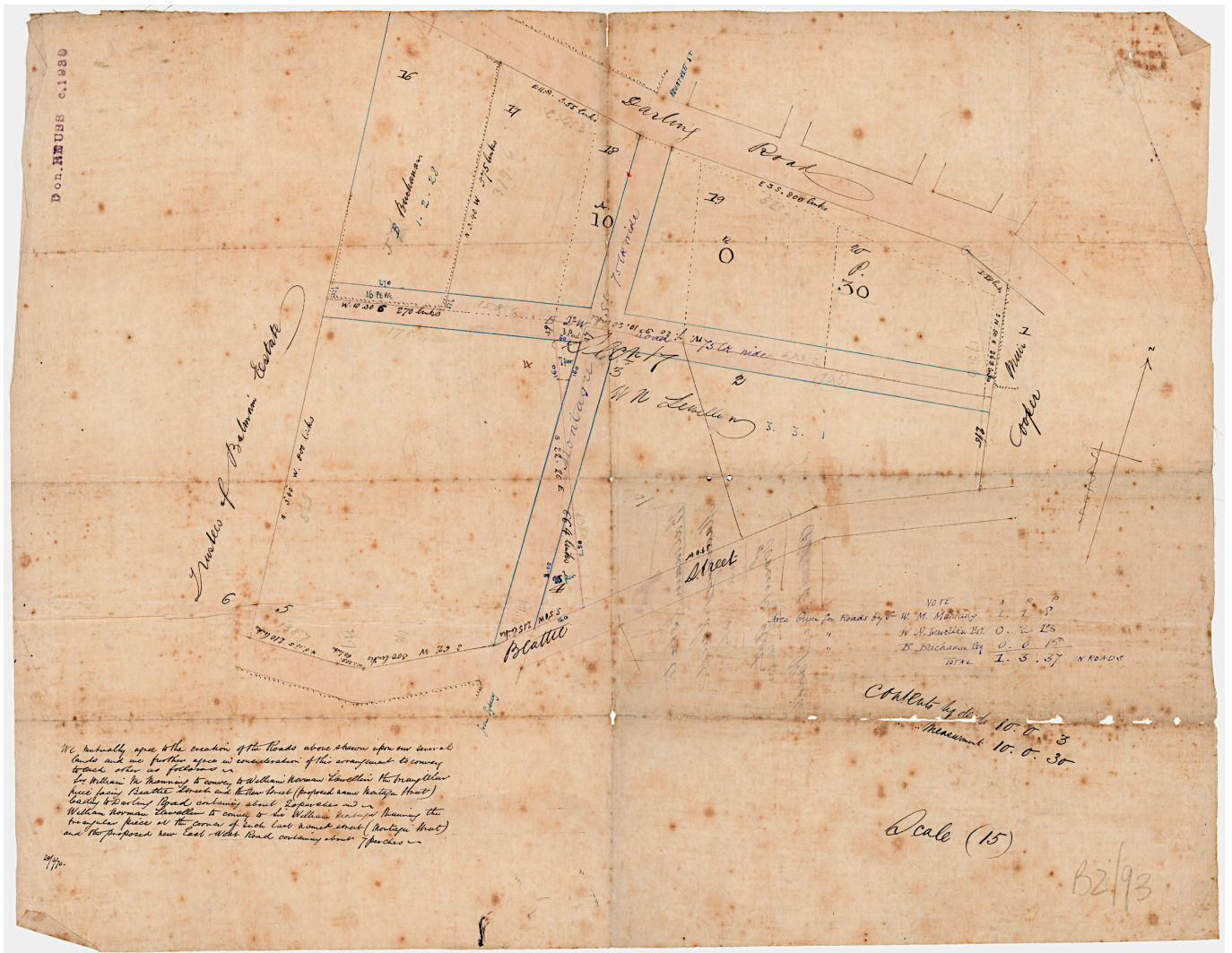


Image 3: The agreement between Llewellyn and Manning on the creation of Llewellyn and Montague Sts required them to trade corners of their neighbouring Lots 3 and 4. SLNSW: [FL10431526](#). (When reading this PDF on a computer, zoom in to see more detail.)

In fact, the subdivision of Section 7 into Lots was so short-sighted that it was not even possible to carve Montague St through a single landowner's holding. It was left to Llewellyn and Manning to trade corners of their Lots 3 and 4, respectively, and agree between themselves as to the disposition of the roads. Manning contributed the lion's share, 1 acre 1 rood 8 perches (5261 m²), or 66% of the 1 acre 3 roods 37 perches (8018 m²) assigned to roads. This was 13% of his total holding of 10 acres 30 perches (41,227 m²).

To complete the road-making story, it should be explained that Robert St is mostly built on land reclaimed much later from mud flats at the head of White Bay; White Bay Power Station and Bunnings stand on what was once a tidal flat. Consequently, Mullens St originally terminated near Parsons St. The piecemeal creation of Robert, Mullens, Montague, and Rowntree Sts, strung together, now forms one of Balmain's main arterial roads.

Jacques did rather well out of the street naming, adding Theodore St to his eponymous Jacques St, remarkable considering how little land he contributed to it. Consid-

ering that the western half of Llewellyn St runs through Manning's land, and that Llewellyn only contributed half of the eastern half, he also got a remarkably good deal, though they changed the spelling of his name. Manning seems to have been content with Montague St, but even so he also had to put up with a spelling change – the addition of an extraneous “e”; it should have been Montagu St. Manning St, Rozelle, was not named after him, nor the Manning River, but Manning House in the University of Sydney was.

The remainder of this document collates the information gathered for 7 Theodore St, of which the above history only provides an overview. It was obtained from freely available and readily accessible (mostly online) primary sources. As intimated, further information may be obtained from paid sources such as birth or death certificates.

2 Sands Directory

John Sands Ltd. published the *Sydney, Suburban and Country Commercial Directory* each year from 1858-59 to 1932-33 with only a handful of years skipped. It is available online at

archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/495003

Because of street renumbering at various times, particularly for most of Balmain between 1915 and 1916, the required strategy is to start at the latest edition and work backwards. Also, because entries can change unexpectedly between years, it is advisable not to skip a year.

As so many residents in this stretch of Theodore St were mariners or shipwrights, they are included in the summary below to provide context, but in a [distinguishing colour](#) so as not to intrude. Some such as William Lelliott, next door at 9 Theodore St, were very long term residents. Neighbours are listed without gaps, with place-holders (non-mariners) in a [non-obtrusive grey](#).

The directories for 1886, 1887, and 1888 give the names of many houses in Theodore St. These are summarised in Table 1. Note that the street was renumbered between 1915 and 1916, the house number changing from 5 to 7.

Sands Suburban Directory: Balmain / Theodore St.

1932-33	7 Wheeler John R.
1931	7 Wheeler John R.
1930	7 Wheeler John R.
1929	7 Wheeler John R.
1928	7 Wheeler John R.
1927	7 Wheeler John R.
1926	7 Wheeler John R.
1925	7 Wheeler John R.
1924	7 Driscoll Michael 9 Burnett Edward
1923	7 Driscoll Michael 9 Lelliott Mrs. Mary
1922	7 Driscoll Michael 9 Lelliott Mrs. Mary
1921	7 Driscoll Michael 9 Lelliott Mrs. Mary
1920	7 Driscoll Michael 9 Lelliott Mrs. Mary
1919	7 Driscoll Michael 9 Lelliott Mrs. Mary
1918	7 Driscoll Michael 9 Lelliott William, sen.
1917	7 Driscoll Michael, master mariner Driscoll H. M., timber agent 9 Lelliott William, sen.
1916	7 Driscoll Michael, master mariner Driscoll H. M., timber agent 9 Lelliott William, sen.
1915	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner Driscoll H. M., timber agent 7 Lelliott William, sen.
1914	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner Driscoll H. M., timber agent 7 Lelliott William, sen.
1913	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen.
1912	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen.

1911	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen.
1910	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen.
1909	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 Earley George 11 Glennie George 13 Wilkins William, engineer 13a Taunch James
1908	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 Earley George 11 Glennie George 13 Taunch James 13a McClenaghan William
1907	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 Earley George 11 Glennie George 13 Taunch James 13a McClenaghan William
1906	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 Earley George 11 Glennie George 13 Taunch James 13a McClenaghan William
1905	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 Gillon Edward 11 Glennie George 13 Taunch James 13a McClenaghan William
1904	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 May C. J. 11 Glennie George 13 Kensey William J. 13a McClenaghan William
1903	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 O'Brien Martin 11 Swan George 13 McClenaghan William
1902	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 Abbott Henry, decorator 11 Swan George 13 McClenaghan William
1901	5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 Abbott Henry, decorator 11 Swan George 13 McClenaghan William
1900	3 Smythe William S. 5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 Abbott Henry, decorator 11 Swan George 13 McClenaghan William
1899	3 Daft James 5 Driscoll Michael, master mariner 7 Lelliott William, sen. 9 Roderick Emanuel

	11 Swan George	9 Roderick Emanuel, shipwright
	13 McClenaghan William	11 Swan George, shipwright
1898	3 Hammond A. E.	13 McClenaghan William
	5 Smith John	Robinson Charles, mariner
	7 Lelliott William, sen.	
	9 Roderick Emanuel	<i>Prior to 1889, houses in Theodore St unnumbered.</i>
	11 Swan George	1888 Rendell, William J., 'Salem cottage'
	13 McClenaghan William	Smith John, 'Albert cottage'
1897	3 Randall W. J.	Lelliott, William, 'Fern cottage'
	5 Smith John	Roderick, Emanuel, shipwright
	7 Lelliott William, sen.	Swan George, shipwright
	9 Roderick Emanuel	McClenaghan, William
	(no entry for 11)	1887 Smoker, James, "Balgowrie cottage"
	13 McClenaghan William	Rendell, William J., "Salem cottage"
1896	3 Brettell G. H., compositor	Smith John, "Albert cottage"
	(no entry for 5)	Lelliott, William, "Fern cottage"
	7 Lelliott William, sen.	Roderick, Emanuel, shipwright
	9 Roderick Emanuel	Swan George, shipwright
	(no entry for 11)	McClenaghan, William, mariner
	13 McClenaghan William	1886 Smoker, James, "Balgowrie cottage"
1895	(no entry for 3)	Rendell, William J., "Salem cottage"
	(no entry for 5)	Smith John, "Albert cottage"
	7 Lelliott William, sen.	Lelliott, William, "Fern cottage"
	9 Roderick Emanuel	Roderick, Emanuel, shipwright
	(no entry for 11)	Swan, —, shipwright
	13 McClenaghan William	McClenaghan, William, mariner
1894	3 Rendell W. J.	1885 Rendell, Joseph, master-mariner
	5 Smith John, master mariner	Smith John, master-mariner
	7 Lelliott William, sen., master mariner	Lelliott, William, master-mariner
	9 Roderick Emanuel, shipwright	1884 Rendell, Joseph, master mariner
	11 Swan George, shipwright	Smith John, master mariner
	13 McClenaghan William	Lelliott, William, master mariner
1893	3 Rendell W. J.	1883 Rendell, Joseph, master mariner
	5 Smith John, master mariner	Smith John, master mariner
	7 Lelliott William, sen., master mariner	Telliott, William, master mariner
	9 Roderick Emanuel, shipwright	1882 Rendell, William J.
	11 Swan George, shipwright	Smith, John
	13 McClenaghan William	Lelliott, William
1892	3 Rendell W. J.	1881 <i>Sands Directory not published.</i>
	5 Smith John, master mariner	1880 Rendell, W. J., mariner
	7 Lelliott James, jun., fuel merchant	Smith, John, mariner
	Lelliott William, sen., master mariner	Zelliott, William, mariner
	9 Roderick Emanuel, shipwright	Bishop, Stephen, mariner
	11 Swan George, shipwright	
	13 McClenaghan William	<i>Prior to 1880, alphabetical list of Balmain residents.</i>
	Robinson Charles, mariner	1879 Rendall, W. J., mariner, Theodore st
1891	3 Rendell W. J.	Smith, John, mariner, Theodore st
	5 Smith John, master mariner	Bishop, Stephen, mariner, Theodore st
	7 Lelliott James, jun., fuel merchant	(Lelliott not found.)
	Lelliott William, sen., master mariner	1878 <i>Sands Directory not published.</i>
	9 Roderick Emanuel, shipwright	1877 Smith, John, Theodore st
	11 Swan George, shipwright	(Bishop, Lelliott, Rendell not found.)
	13 McClenaghan William	1876 (Smith, John, Mullens st)
	Robinson Charles, mariner	1875 (Smith, John, Mullins st)
1890	3 Muscatt Mrs.	1874 <i>Sands Directory not published.</i>
	5 Smith John, master mariner	<i>Prior to 1874, residents listed by street for Sydney as a whole.</i>
	7 Lelliott William, master mariner	1873 [Theodore St not listed]
	9 Roderick Emanuel, shipwright	1872 <i>Sands Directory not published.</i>
	11 Swan George, shipwright	1871 [Theodore St not listed]
	13 McClenaghan William	<i>Prior to 1871, alphabetical directory of residents for Sydney as a whole.</i>
	Robinson Charles, mariner	1870 (Smith, John not identifiable)
	15 Howell James	
1889	3 Rendell, William J.	
	5 Smith John	
	7 Lelliott William	

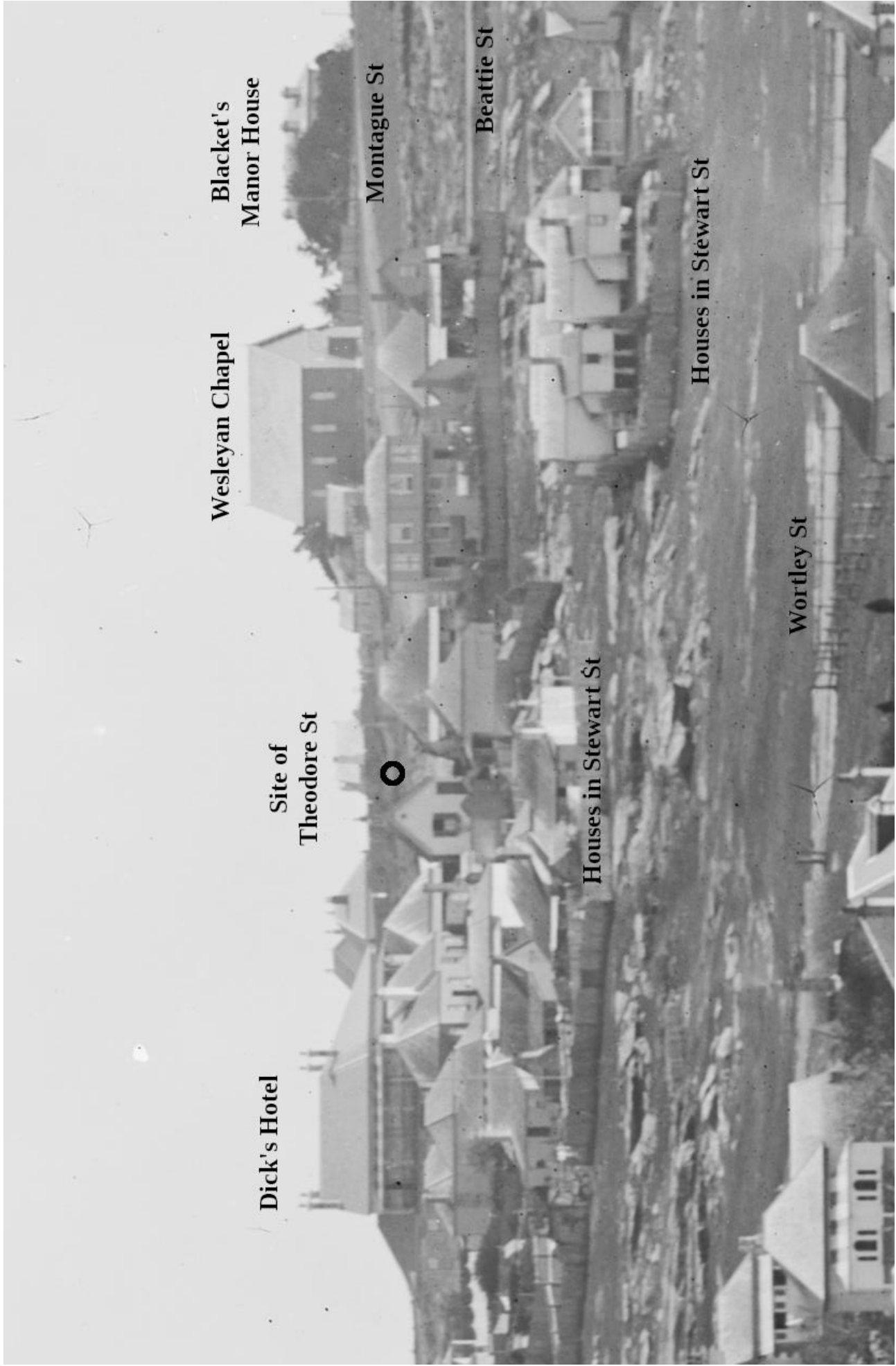


Image 4: Portion of a photograph taken circa 1874 from Glebe Island looking across White Bay to the southern flank of the Balmain peninsula. The Wesleyan Chapel was on the SW corner of Montague and Llewellyn Sts. Blacket's *Kent Villa*, now known as the Manor House, still stands next to the fire station. SLNSW: [FL1250616](#).

Table 1: The cottages of Theodore St, as listed in the Sands Suburban Directory for Balmain, 1886, '87, '88. Old street numbering applied between 1889 and 1915, new from 1916 onwards.

Old	New	Name
1	3	Balgownie cottage
3	5	Salem cottage
5	7	Albert cottage
7	9	Fern cottage
15	19	Erwin cottage
34	24	Mabel cottage (1886)
34	24	Flora's ville (1887,'88)

3 Land titles and deeds

Where once it was necessary to spend hours searching through folios in the basement of the Land Titles Office (LTO) in Macquarie St, most land title research can now be conducted online through the Land Registry Services (LRS) web sites. The first step is to find the current and prior titles.

Land title:

Go to online.nswlrs.com.au.

Enter the address as **7 Theodore St, Balmain**.

Current title: 9/C/77 (i.e. Lot 9 in Section C of Deposited Plan 77).

Prior title: 370-197 (i.e. Torrens Certificate of Title (CT), Volume 370 Folio 197).

Alternatively, SIX Maps (maps.six.nsw.gov.au) provides an option to draw and label land boundaries, and may provide the most convenient means of determining the current Certificate of Title (CT) of land without a street address, such as public parks. However, LRS will still be needed to determine the prior CT.

The next step is to look up these Certificates of Title in the Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) at hlrv.nswlrs.com.au, noting that CTs that are too recent will not be found (see below for instructions).

Deposited Plan 77

Available, dated 1871-09-26. See Image 6.

CT Volume 370 Folio 197

1878-08-26 to John Smith of Balmain, master mariner. Lot 9 of Section C of Mannings subdivision. Prior CT 167-58. Transfer dated 1878-05-07.

CT Volume 167 Folio 58

1873-09-13 to John Penny Starling of Sydney, gentleman. Lots 17 to 31 of Section A, Lots 8 to 14 of Section B, Lots 7 to 21 of Section C, and Lots 12 to 21 of Section D of Manning's subdivision. Prior CT 125-168.

CT Volume 125 Folio 168

1871-09-07 to Sir William Montagu Manning of Sydney, knight. Lots 5, 17, 18, 19, & 20 and part of Lots



Image 5: Diagram of Lots 4, 5, 17, 18, 19, & 20 of Section 7 of the Balmain Estate in Torrens certificate of title Volume 3 Folio 204 dated 25 February 1864 to Sir William Montagu Manning. No connection exists between Mullens St entering at the bottom, and Rowntree St exiting at the top – Montague, Theodore, Llewellyn, and Little Darling Sts having yet to be gazetted. 7 Theodore St lies in Lot 5.

3 & 4 of Section 7 of the Balmain Estate. Prior CT 113-70.

CT Volume 113 Folio 70

1871-01-06 to Sir William Montagu Manning of Sydney, knight. Lots 5, 17, 18, 19, & 20 and part of Lot 4 of Section 7 of the Balmain Estate. Prior CT 3-204.

CT Volume 3 Folio 204

1864-02-25 to Sir William Montagu Manning of Sydney, knight. Lots 4, 5, 17, 18, 19, and 20 of Section 7 of the Balmain Estate. No prior CT nor Primary Application cited.

Having worked back to CT Vol. 3 Fol. 204, we would like to find the deed of conveyance from the trustees of Gilchrist's Balmain Estate to Sir William Montagu Manning. To do that one must know that the trustees were Joseph Hume, Charles Holland, John MacGregor, John Bowring, and Robert Verity. The vendors index may be searched for any one of these names, Verity being the simplest as it is less common than the others. Found deed Book 64 No. 978, Manning being the purchaser of Lots 18, 19, and 20.

Book 64 No 978

1854-01-17, Lots 18, 19, & 20 of Section 7 of the Balmain Estate, £532 10s, conveyance from the trustees of John Borthwick Gilchrist to Sir William Montagu Manning of Sydney, barrister at law and Solicitor General of NSW.

No corresponding deed of conveyance was found for Lots 4, 5, or 17, which is annoying because 7 Theodore St lies in Lot 5. Unusually, CT Vol. 3 Fol. 204 does not cite a Primary Application Number, which refers to a process by which land held under the old deed-based system of ownership was transferred to the newer Torrens Title system,

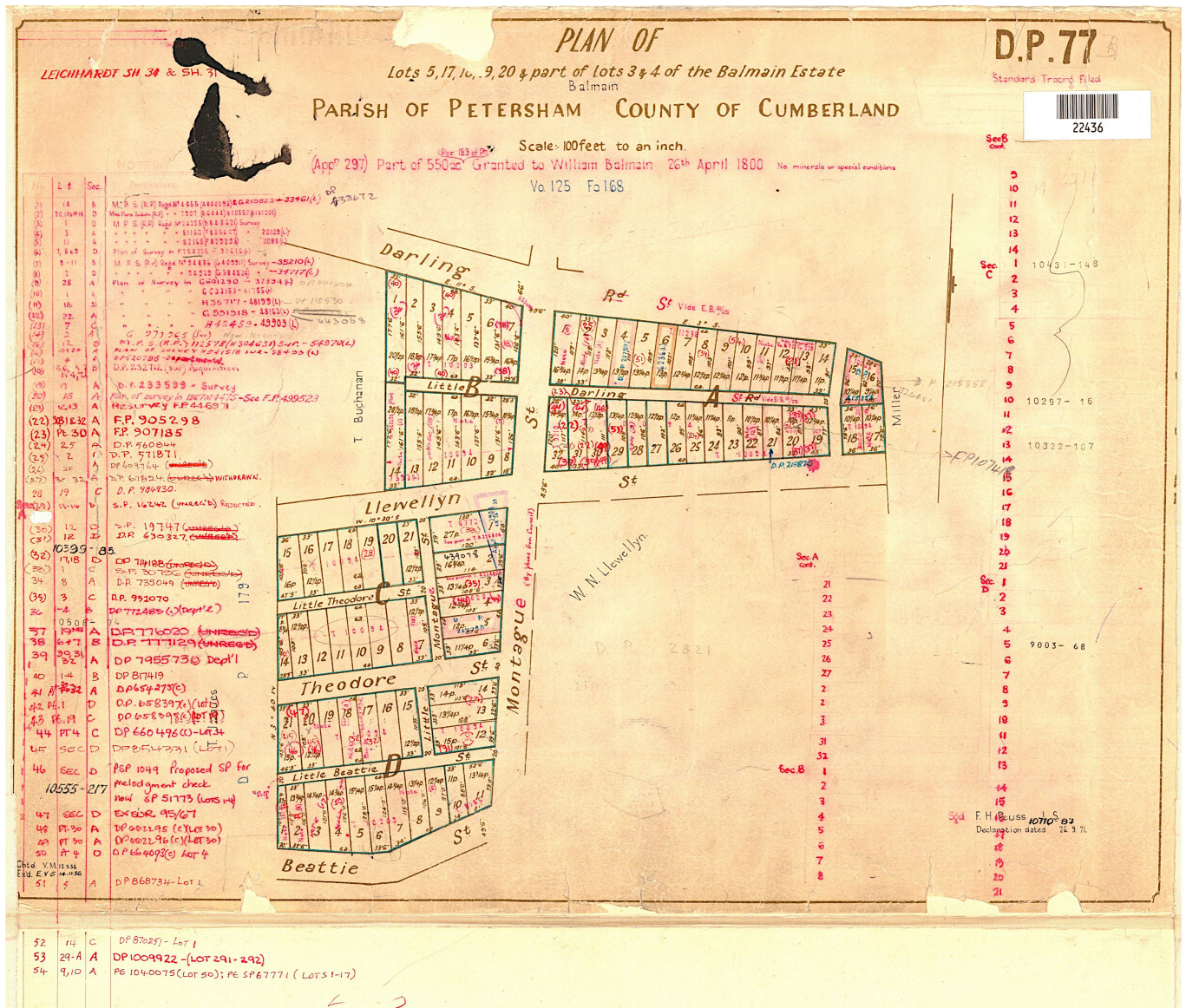


Image 6: Deposited Plan 77, being for Manning’s subdivision of Lots 5, 17, 18, 19, & 20 and part of Lots 3 & 4 of Section 7 of the Balmain Estate. 7 Theodore St is Lot 9 of Section C of Manning’s subdivision. Montague St was created as part of this subdivision, named after Sir William Montagu Manning – note how an ‘e’ has been added in red to the street name! Also the misspelling of William Norman Llewellyn’s name. Appⁿ 297 is cited in red below the title.

sometimes referred to as RPA (Real Property Act). Fortunately, “Appⁿ 297” is cited on DP77 (Image 6). Searching for this as a Primary Application Number in HLRV scores a hit, namely a record of a search made by a registry clerk of deeds relating to Manning’s land dealings. However, there is nothing relating specifically to Lots 4, 5, or 17.

As a last resort, we may consult *Balmain: 1800-1882; The Gilchrist Settlement — A basic search plan* by Peter Reynolds (1978), available from the Balmain Association. However, it does require a trip to the Watch House to consult the Plan map. It discloses that Manning purchased Lots 4, 5, and 17 in 1861 under RPA 297. This knowledge could only have come through perusal of Application 297 itself, which is not available in HLRV.

Instructions for viewing a Torrens land title (e.g. Vol. 1213 Fol. 72).

1. Go to hlrv.nswlrs.com.au and accept the conditions.
2. In the **Attribute Search** panel at the top of the page, click on the **Search By** menu and scroll down to **Vol-Fol**.
3. In the **Search** entry box that appears to its right, enter **2123-72** and press **Enter** on your keyboard.
4. Click on the blue halo surrounding a number (usually **2** or **4**) at the bottom of the page and *allow time for the image to load*.

Instructions for viewing a deed are similar. Select **Book and Number** in place of **Vol-Fol** and enter it, for example, as **890-108**. Likewise for primary applications; select **Primary Application Number** and enter it as a plain

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

(C.)

New South Wales.

CANCELLED W

ON ISSUE OF NEW FOLIO 91c/77

Reference to Last Certificate
No. CXXVII Folio 58



REGISTER BOOK,

Vol. 370 Folio 197

John Smith of Balmain Master Mariner Transfers under Instrument of Transfer from John Henry Harling numbered 29720 is now the proprietor of an Estate in fee simple Subject nevertheless to the reservations and conditions if any, contained in the Grant hereinafter referred to; and also Subject to such encumbrances liens and interests as are notified herein in that Piece of Land situated at Balmain in the Parish of Peterstown and County of Cumberland containing Twelve and a half (12 1/2) or thereabouts as shown on the plan hereon and therein edged red being Lot 9 of Section C on a plan deposited in the Land Titles Office Sydney Numbered 77 and part of Five hundred and fifty acres delineated in the Public Map of the said Parish deposited in the office of the Surveyor General originally granted to William Balmain by Crown Grant dated the twenty sixth day of April one thousand eight hundred and eighty eight.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my Seal, this Twenty sixth day of August one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

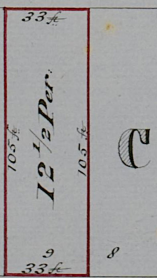
Signed the 26th day of August 1878
in the presence of Chas. F. Rees

A. M. M. B.
Deputy Registrar General.



NOTIFICATION REFERRED TO.

LITTLE THEODORE ST



THEODORE ST

NO 111375 TRANSFER DATED 5th January 1878
FROM THE ABOVE NAMED John Smith to Mary Ann Smith
Smith wife of the said John Smith with a power of
Appointment over OF THE LAND ABOVE DESCRIBED
PRODUCED & ENTERED 16th August 1878
AT 5 o'clock IN THE After NOON
of 1878 REGR GENL

NO 26668 TRANSFER DATED 31 August 1877
FROM THE ABOVE NAMED Mary Ann Smith to
Michael Briscoll of Balmain Master
Mariner OF THE LAND ABOVE DESCRIBED
PRODUCED & ENTERED 31 August 1877
AT 12 o'clock IN THE After NOON
of 1877 REGR GENL

NO 26937 MORTGAGE DATED 3rd July 1877
FROM THE ABOVE NAMED Michael Briscoll to the Bank
of New South Wales
PRODUCED & ENTERED 18th September 1877
AT 10 o'clock IN THE After NOON
of 1877 REGR GENL

00370197



Image 7: Torrens Certificate of Title (CT) Volume 370 Folio 197 to John Smith of Balmain, master mariner.



Image 8: A portion of City Section Map, Balmain Sheet No. 35 dated August 1889. Dick's Hotel is visible on the corner with the newly-completed Exchange Hotel opposite. The residence of **Dr. Charles Ulic Carruthers** (1853-1937), Balmain's highly-regarded doctor, is immediately north of Dick's. It still stands in modified form. A weatherboard Wesleyan Hall is on the south-eastern corner of Llewellyn and Little Montague Sts.

number, for example, 16406.

To search the Vendors Index, in the **Refine Search** panel on the left side of the page, open the **OLD SYSTEM RECORDS** sub-menu by clicking on the arrow. Then open the **OLD SYSTEM INDEXES** sub-menu and check (56) **VENDORS INDEX**. In the **Attribute Search** panel at the top, select **Surname Initial** and enter the first two letters of the surname you wish to search for, e.g. **VE** for Verity, and press **Enter** on your keyboard.

4 Cadastral maps

Cadastral maps relate to a survey of land, originally for the purpose of taxation and to create an official register of land ownership. In the following list, which also includes historical maps that show the land boundary and/or structures that occupy it, the FL number is the State Library of New South Wales (SLNSW) catalogue number, and the link is given in abbreviated form. For example, [74VKOexbZDAM](https://collection.sl.nsw.au/record/74VKOexbZDAM) means <https://collection.sl.nsw.au/record/74VKOexbZDAM>.

FL4378925 ([74VKqv5pXe4b/bBBq4kWG4JqPk](#))

City Section map: Balmain, Sheet 35. Survey map showing building outlines up to August 1889, produced as part of a survey by the Water Board for constructing the system of sewer pipes (see Image 8).

FL10431526 ([74VvqvRO64Xg/ZBajkNGe4eDZ8](#))

Agreement between Manning & Llewellyn on creation of Montague & Llewellyn Sts, dated 1870-03-20.

FL10431379 ([74VvqvRO64Xg/Gl7pbQZDqxp7a](#))

Map of Manning's subdivision.

FL10431680 ([74VvqvRO64Xg/k75MzPdA6NJNd](#))

Map of Manning's subdivision.

FL10431435 ([74VvqvRO64Xg/PAr7DLGraNvX](#))

Lithograph of DP77 showing Manning's subdivision.

FL10432994 ([74VvqvRO64Xg/P7rE7PymvOXGq](#))

Lithograph of DP77 showing Manning's subdivision.

FL10431652 ([74VvqvRO64Xg/wBel2bRXwq8mj](#))

Road alignment.

FL10432847 ([74VvqvRO64Xg/7qvXMvqmygOmZ](#))

Jacques' subdivision.

FL10432136 ([74VvqvRO64Xg/KD8BAzA4aepax](#))

Jacques Estate land sale.

- FL10432910** ([74VvqvRO64Xg/z7wZoO46dKx8](#))
Sketch of Llewellyn Estate.
- FL10432812** ([74VvqvRO64Xg/gW6Z3ZERzVw8D](#))
Llewellyn Estate land sale, 5 December 1908.
- FL10432854** ([74VvqvRO64Xg/M6oBDzXaqkdbZ](#))
Llewellyn Estate land sale, 5 December 1908.
- FL10432917** ([74VvqvRO64Xg/Vrl2gPGEgJRvl](#))
Llewellyn Estate land sale, 16 December 1916.

Other large-scale land maps of interest:

- FL8998900, FL16812073** ([74VKOexbZDAM](#))
Brownrigg & Meadows; Balmain, 1846
- FL16812120** ([74VKOee2kN0d](#))
Langley's survey of Balmain, 1852.
- FL8993871, FL17364354, & FL17364355**
([74VKOeevzM2Z](#)) Langley's survey of Balmain, 1853.
- FL3711073** ([74VvNxjdDGNb](#))
Brownrigg's survey of Balmain, 1861.
- FL9645266** ([74VKOl2raVGO](#))
Brownrigg & Langley; Balmain, 1861.
- FL9645292, FL9645293, & FL16812330**
([74VvrG0epe4b](#)) Higinbotham, Robinson, & Harrison; Balmain, c1883.
- FL16327132** ([74Vv3zWW3a3M](#))
H.E.C. Robinson; Balmain, 1925.

5 Newspaper articles

Newspaper articles are perhaps the most fruitful source of unexpected information regarding old houses and their occupants. Australia is most fortunate in this regard in having Trove (trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/about), probably the single most powerful resource for historical research available in Australia today, and completely free to use!

A vast collection of Australian city and country newspapers and magazines has been scanned and made searchable online via optical character recognition (OCR). This makes it possible, for example, to search for a house address, or the name of the occupant of a house, or that of a business. Anything may turn up in these searches.

However, it is important to bear in mind when searching Trove that the OCR technology is not perfect, particularly so for the cramped print normally found in the classified advertisements. Consequently, one must be inventive in constructing minimal search strings and, where possible, constricting the search to as narrow a range of dates as possible so as to limit the number of spurious results.

Trove runs to 1954 for most newspapers, including the main Sydney mastheads such as *The Sydney Morning Herald*. However, scanned, searchable issues of the Herald published between 1955 and 1995 are available online, free, to members of the State Library of New South Wales at smharchives-smedia-com-au.ezproxy.sl.nsw.gov.au/Olive/APA/smharchive/-Default.aspx#panel=browse. Membership of the State Library is free to NSW residents.

Likewise, natively digital issues of the Herald published from 2006 to the present day are available at libraryedition-smedia-com-au.ezproxy.sl.nsw.gov.au/lib_s.

What follows is only a partial list of Trove newspaper articles – with persistence many more could be found. The link is given in abbreviated form. For example, [news-article14996583](#) means <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14996583>.

- 1894-07-13** ([news-article13959690](#))
Ketch Korunnah for sale (Driscoll).
- 1894-07-17** ([news-article13960283](#))
Ketch Korunnah for sale (Driscoll).
- 1898-05-30** ([news-article239567679](#))
Alice Mary Smith funeral.
- 1902-11-01** ([news-article132362226](#))
Mrs. M. Driscoll, lost jewellery.
- 1905-04-02** ([news-article231866179](#))
Harold Driscoll, joke.
- 1913-05-14** ([news-article251644682](#))
Capt. Michael Driscoll, stolen watch.
- 1917-04-17** ([news-article15714445](#))
Capt. John Smith funeral.
- 1917-11-08** ([news-article239244833](#))
Capt. Michael Driscoll, stolen watch.
- 1917-11-08** ([news-article239244833](#))
De Verdic funeral notice.
- 1929-09-17** ([news-article16584622](#))
Obituary of Capt. Michael Driscoll (includes photo).
- 1929-09-17** ([news-article246288172](#))
Obituary of Capt. Michael Driscoll.
- 1929-09-17** ([news-article118997483](#))
Obituary of Capt. Michael Driscoll.
- 1929-09-18** ([news-article16584937](#))
Report of funeral, Capt. Michael Driscoll.
- 1929-09-24** ([news-article24289613](#))
Obit and report of funeral, Capt. Michael Driscoll.
- 1932-03-17** ([news-article246548902](#))
Mrs Wheeler's £10 prize.
- 1932-03-21** ([news-article246555641](#))
Mrs Wheeler's £10 prize.
- 1937-02-20** ([news-article17305506](#))
Death of Caroline Elizabeth Wheeler; return thanks.
- 1937-02-20** ([news-article247380165](#))
Death of Caroline Elizabeth Wheeler; return thanks.
- 1937-02-22** ([news-article17314773](#))
Death of Caroline Elizabeth Wheeler; return thanks.
- 1937-02-22** ([news-article247380814](#))
Death of Caroline Elizabeth Wheeler; return thanks.

6 The Peninsula Observer

The Balmain Association (BA) has published its newsletter, *The Peninsula Observer*, since April 1966 and over



Image 9: 5 Theodore St, *Salem cottage*, in an undated photograph, probably 1980s – the current mature street tree is only a sapling here. Sadly, the cottage has since been stripped of its cast iron lace. Enough of 7 Theodore St is visible at left to discern the colour scheme, which includes a striking red roof. Balmain Association archives.

the years it has accumulated quite a few historical articles. A full, scanned, searchable set of issues is available from the BA web site, balmainassociation.org.au/newsletters. However, nothing was found specifically relating to 7 Theodore St.

7 Photography

Realistically, locating a photograph of a particular house in the collection of images held by a public institution would have to be considered a long shot. Not so, however, for aerial photography, where an image might cover a large fraction of a suburb. The shoreline industries of Balmain were well documented in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s by a pioneer of aerial photography, **Milton Charles Kent** (1888-1965).

The State Library of New South Wales holds a collection of Kent's photographs, organised into albums associated with a particular photographic assignment. These invariably relate to the industrial company that commissioned the work, which tends to locate those photographs in a particular quarter of Balmain. However, Kent's photographs are usually low altitude raking shots that catch a fair amount of the surrounding residential neighbourhood, sometimes extending far into the distance.

In the complete, Balmain-specific inventory that follows, photographs are grouped by album with a broad description of the section(s) of Balmain covered and the industrial target of the photographic assignment. A ● marks images in which 7 Theodore St is visible (see also notes following). Note that six of these images are inverted left-right. These are marked with ⇔.

<i>Peacock Point (Sam Hood, photographer).</i>	
FL1036757	nQRq20L1/dz4DbJm4xvMp
<i>Balmain behind the Harbour Bridge (Hall & Co.).</i>	
FL3432254	nGm4owMY/xXNBORXMWEg6
<i>Callan Park.</i>	
FL8804877	YRlZGB2n/8BKaOXRAqyZoL
FL8804878	YRlZGB2n/m308RI0yLoj5y
<i>White Bay (Lever Bros.).</i>	
FL8805106	nmQdGp5n/yNIX0akjwGZdE
FL8805107	nmQdGp5n/4JjvNvoVZ8EZk
FL8805108	nmQdGp5n/8rGE77BxOO3Nz
FL8805109	nmQdGp5n/3lJNoy3ZqaGg7
<i>Balmain east & central (Colgate-Palmolive).</i>	
FL8805254	9arp20On/9arp20On
FL8805255	9arp20On/QMrJw7RXXrLRd
FL8805256	⇔ 9arp20On/O8e2r34b2KN06
● FL8805257	⇔ 9arp20On/aG47VP2aX7prE
FL8805258	⇔ 9arp20On/64KxWpdoreXV
FL8805259	⇔ 9arp20On/kzk5g4aXwMB0x
FL8805260	⇔ 9arp20On/wbmDr0N0oKoO2
FL8805261	⇔ 9arp20On/yeJGGX42e6QPE
<i>Balmain north & central (National Box Co.).</i>	
● FL8805381	YEGm8qVn/QOel5DIMK32NZ
<i>Johnsons Bay (various).</i>	
FL8805509	9qoQEPO1/QMq38x8eqb4JV
FL8805513	9qoQEPO1/rKVLdWg7vM0D
<i>Birchgrove (Coal mine).</i>	
FL8807887	9qoQEoE1/5goWm4qrWK6xg
FL8807888	9qoQEoE1/gwBZoON0NabQm
FL8807889	9qoQEoE1/NNAP5vEEZZdQm
FL8807890	9qoQEoE1/GXPKDoe4L6v3a
<i>White Bay (Glebe Island).</i>	
FL8810803	1LjRMb39/2ZJW0D7vxd6A3
FL8810804	1LjRMb39/pX8VEvqqgD254
<i>Glebe Island and White Bay.</i>	
FL8811177	YezdQMW9/RqOlwwqxx7ag3
FL8811178	YezdQMW9/rxpMljDPJgZ0b
FL8811179	YezdQMW9/R6jPXmO6g5WEq
<i>Fitzroy Ave (National Box Co.).</i>	
FL8811375	YzOgzq89/rXEGxp2VPD7MN
FL8811376	YzOgzq89/ZpQdJX5GJOp8m
FL8811377	YzOgzq89/DwP5pJmd4DN6y
FL8811378	YzOgzq89/8rJ7j2EdjlaAB
<i>Rozelle to Balmain central (Lever Bros.).</i>	
FL8811441	Yr8RkZKn/4Mrm7Zoj5z3l
● FL8811442	Yr8RkZKn/8VNOX3dQyw5VP
FL8811443	Yr8RkZKn/5jLGe4V7XRRK7
FL8811444	Yr8RkZKn/o0QP667d75jXN
FL8811445	Yr8RkZKn/4BJN8X5DgNGly
FL8811446	Yr8RkZKn/N5WoPmNr7xzzq0
FL8811447	Yr8RkZKn/oX2qBBpO3ABqW
FL8811448	Yr8RkZKn/Rpo2jldPJPoJP
FL8811449	Yr8RkZKn/rBMwzqxLZ6d6Z
<i>Balmain central & south, and Rozelle.</i>	
● FL8812097	9yM6AVE9/BwNRjWIP2B84y
<i>East Balmain (Pyrmont, high altitude).</i>	
FL8812103	9yM6AVE9/pxbEoqj28QNBX
<i>Rozelle Bay.</i>	
FL8812314	YzOgzPd9/GQzdoqQ4y3v5G
FL8812315	YzOgzPd9/KoOLEzeXkE40j

Cockatoo Is., Birchgrove & Balmain East.
 FL8812322 YzOgzPd9/xDg6QZZNJRxWk
 FL8812323 YzOgzPd9/OkpBv5rzRodq4
 FL8812324 YzOgzPd9/ZyQ4J236pKqvv

Ballast Pt., Mort Bay, Balmain east & central.
 FL8812384 nM7lXzZY/Deav2aMNKv3lE
 FL8812385 nM7lXzZY/LlJWpPQNAqkDg

Rozelle north (Monsanto).
 FL8812999 9O4oXM4n/ywKba3GpR8b5D
 FL8813000 9O4oXM4n/P753DmREebAjq
 FL8813001 9O4oXM4n/mw7moA0rw6lO5

Rozelle, Balmain central and east (Lever Bros.).
 FL8813198 1LjRX359/pVrALaL2Jbb5m
 FL8813199 1LjRX359/6BDbwWr5AmbXo
 FL8813200 1LjRX359/y2QLy8yPN8aRz

Rozelle, Balmain central and east (Lever Bros.).
 • FL8813317 nmQd6DRn/WyLNOXXmQ5dVK
 FL8813318 nmQd6DRn/oJLOpVJr02bX3
 FL8813319 nmQd6DRn/R5oDXzwyMPep2
 FL8813320 nmQd6DRn/VywPWNZKk4oog

Rozelle north – Balmain central (Empire Timber Mill).
 • FL8813709 1bGdXkrY/poO4jEWzrD6jb
 • FL8813711 1bGdXkrY/g3GDDyWX6jwev
 • FL8813713 1bGdXkrY/NN0WMrM5BxdEb
 • FL8813715 1bGdXkrY/pwrE8WmxqVPqA

Cockatoo Is., Birchgrove, and Balmain East.
 FL8814247 1kVd2bzn/GK8o6lA88dOB
 FL8814248 1kVd2bzn/zK0kwMEpmoKB
 FL8814249 1kVd2bzn/aazMVkBZKRe76
 FL8814250 1kVd2bzn/AdorQlvwNmK54

Ballast Pt. and Mort Bay (Caltex).
 FL8817987 nZNvbM6n/4gwVMKZ5Mdxj
 FL8817988 nZNvbM6n/ZDLyKOO88vPN7
 FL8817989 nZNvbM6n/zeMXzwN73VoPO

Long Nose Pt. (Jubilee Engineering).
 FL8818051 1JkmX7oY/y2gLGKKVwK5bx
 FL8818052 1JkmX7oY/pXEy4VMe8voL4
 FL8818053 1JkmX7oY/jeEdKdzQoEW87
 FL8818054 1JkmX7oY/rDeV2oA4M0Ja7

Balmain & Rozelle, Birkenhead Pt. (high altitude).
 FL8819142 YK5QX2Mn/b0Me3qwVX6PXb
 FL8819143 YK5QX2Mn/vZLl7p8AAKowG
 FL8819144 YK5QX2Mn/8DPwykqbJ6ZJL
 FL8819145 YK5QX2Mn/l83mpeGmWlIAJ
 FL8819146 YK5QX2Mn/VRQ3x60aQ5qK7
 FL8819150 YK5QX2Mn/EVWvWGqEwj3eV
 FL8819151 YK5QX2Mn/rAkLJLQmdvx0N
 FL8819152 YK5QX2Mn/RaoPlJdBky532

Mort Bay (Mort's Engineering, high altitude).
 FL8819281 n7oVNmAn/oVGP7rvQZG4B3
 FL8819282 n7oVNmAn/bm6ajyZrBdebX
 FL8819283 n7oVNmAn/040Kp3vKQONja
 FL8819284 n7oVNmAn/6NbDJ5lJLejLz
 FL8819285 n7oVNmAn/VgBvBZ7Xg6RLJ
 FL8819286 n7oVNmAn/kDM7Akb46Gybx

Mort Bay (Chapman's slipway, high altitude).
 FL8819287 n7oVNmAn/N7eeVKAZJG6j
 FL8819288 n7oVNmAn/7KXLbkAAy408Z
 FL8819289 n7oVNmAn/jjDeAgrrvkN83

Rozelle north (Monsanto, high altitude).
 FL8824504 9NaAXRbY/05wlpG86EogkP
 FL8824505 9NaAXRbY/NgJzNa0wv5KwK
 FL8824506 9NaAXRbY/djV8aNe4rKpQg
 FL8824507 9NaAXRbY/lGwdP7NgKNK6O
 FL8824508 9NaAXRbY/2RAMX65ZD4Gwy
 FL8824509 9NaAXRbY/XLPox3Wookay0
 FL8824510 9NaAXRbY/4D5B02w2MMDb6
 FL8824511 9NaAXRbY/QpOQdKQ7rK0vA
 FL8824512 9NaAXRbY/gLjwGpaGEA0pD
 FL8824513 9NaAXRbY/zPVbPrmGXl0M
 FL8824514 9NaAXRbY/KDv3GNx7rMrk0
 FL8824515 9NaAXRbY/DBeBBNpmMmQQb
 FL8824516 9NaAXRbY/JdEvjjwNoKLQV
 FL8824524 9NaAXRbY/ZER58GGql4QoQ

7 Theodore St is not particularly well represented in any of these aerial photographs, but they do give a good idea of what the neighbourhood was like at the time. As indicated above, it appears in the following:
 SLNSW_FL8805257 (distant, roof),
 SLNSW_FL8805381 (distant, roof),
 SLNSW_FL8811442 (OK, frontal),
 SLNSW_FL8812097 (rear),
 SLNSW_FL8813317 (OK, frontal),
 SLNSW_FL8813709 (good view down Theodore St),
 SLNSW_FL8813711 (view down Theodore St),
 SLNSW_FL8813713 (good view down Theodore St),
 SLNSW_FL8813715 (same as SLNSW_FL8813713).

During WWII, the NSW Department of Main Roads commissioned [Adastra Airways](#) to produce an aerial survey of the whole of Sydney. Unlike Kent's aerial photography, this was a high-altitude survey looking directly downwards. As such, the most visible part of a house is usually its roof, though unexpected structures may be revealed in the backyard. Nevertheless, the survey is an extremely valuable historical resource, especially as it can be dated narrowly to May-June 1943. SIX Maps provides the 1943 survey as an overlay option to recent satellite photographs, making it even more valuable.

Go to maps.six.nsw.gov.au, and click on **BASEMAPS** in the top-right corner. In the menu that opens, click on **Looking for 1943 or other imagery?** and then select **Sydney 1943 Imagery**. Pull the slider down to fade from current satellite imagery to 1943. Be careful not to zoom in too far, the 1943 imagery disappears above a certain level.

8 Electoral rolls

With the end of the Sands Directory in 1933, electoral rolls become the main tool for researching residents. However, as surnames are listed alphabetically within electorates comprised of thousands of voters, it is no small job to scan through the rolls looking for a particular address. Yet if the surname of a resident is known, it is a simple matter to trace it through the rolls for as long as they lived at the address. Once a new resident moves in, however, the roll has to be searched again from scratch (which is outside

the scope of this research).

A selection of NSW electoral rolls is available online, with a subscription, through genealogical companies such as Ancestry.com. These run to 1980. The State Library of New South Wales holds microfiche copies of the electoral rolls for the whole of Australia, complete up to 2008. Of course, consulting them entails a trip to Macquarie St.

It is useful to know that the whole of Balmain including Rozelle, etc., has always been included in a single electorate, and that it has always comprised the New South Wales state electorate of Balmain. However, the Commonwealth electorate has changed over the years. At federation it was in Dalley but that changed to West Sydney in 1934. In 1949 it changed to Martin, and in 1958 back to Dalley. Dalley was abolished in 1968 and it became part of Sydney until 2016 when it switched to Grayndler.

- 1931 Dalley / Balmain
 - Wheeler, Alice Ann, home duties
 - Wheeler, John Robert, labourer
- 1933 Dalley / Balmain
 - Wheeler, Alice Ann, home duties
 - Wheeler, John Robert, labourer
 - Wheeler, Nancy Elizabeth, tipper
- 1934 West Sydney / Balmain
 - Wheeler, Alice Ann, home duties
 - Wheeler, John Robert, labourer
 - Wheeler, Nancy Elizabeth, tipper
- 1935 West Sydney / Balmain
 - Wheeler, Alice Ann, home duties
 - Wheeler, John Robert, labourer
 - Wheeler, Nancy Elizabeth, tipper
- 1936 West Sydney / Balmain
 - Wheeler, Alice Ann, home duties
 - Wheeler, Frank Edmund, labourer
 - Wheeler, John Robert, labourer
 - Wheeler, Nancy Elizabeth, tipper
- 1937 West Sydney / Balmain
 - Wheeler, Alice Ann, home duties
 - Wheeler, Frank Edmund, labourer
 - Wheeler, John Robert, labourer
 - Wheeler, Nancy Elizabeth, tipper
- 1943 West Sydney / Balmain
 - Wheeler, Alice Ann, home duties
 - Wheeler, Frank Edmund, carrier
 - Wheeler, John Robert, labourer
 - Wheeler, Nancy Elizabeth, tipper
- 1949 Martin / Balmain
 - Wheeler, Alice Ann, home duties
 - Wheeler, Nancy Elizabeth, tipper
- 1954 Martin / Balmain
 - Wheeler, Nancy Elizabeth, tipper
- 1958 Dalley / Balmain
 - (no entry for Wheeler)

9 Genealogies

As appropriate, genealogies for individuals or families of interest are recorded on FamilySearch, a Wikipedia-equivalent for genealogy (www.familysearch.org). Everyone works collaboratively to construct a single family tree

encompassing all humanity. FamilySearch is accessible via a free account.

FamilySearch assigns a unique identifier to each person:

- John Smith (1836-1917): [GRG7-SDN](#)
- Michael Driscoll (1854-1929): [LXSL-F46](#)
- John Robert Wheeler (1881-1947): [GSDM-QG4](#)

10 Other resources

Examination of the following resources is beyond the scope of this research, but would be considered part of a thorough investigation.

Balmain Council rate books

Balmain Municipal Council's rate books survive in toto and are publically accessible at the State Archives Office of NSW (SAO), located at Kingswood in western Sydney. Of course, the rate books list the rate payers – typically the land owners, not their tenants. It should also be mentioned that the amount of information obtained may seem disappointing for the effort involved.

Rate books were kept separately for each of the four council wards: North, North-East, South-East, and South-West, with Darling St dividing north and south. Balmain Council covered the whole of what is now Balmain, Balmain East, Birchgrove and Rozelle (which includes Glebe Island). This map from 1882 is as good as any for locating an address within a ward: collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/74Vv3zJ543qO.

Go to mhsw.au/collections/state-archives-collection and enter **NRS-15823** in the search bar to get a list of the rate books (entering **AGY-2172** gets everything SAO holds for Balmain Council). There are 108 rate books in total, 27 for each of the four wards. They were annual from 1908 to 1927 inclusive, after which they became tri-annual until Balmain Council was absorbed into Leichhardt Council in 1948.

Beware that two of the books catalogued as North-West Ward are in fact North Ward. Order the books you wish to consult and they will be waiting for you when you arrive at the Archives Office. The best strategy is to photograph the pages of interest and peruse them at leisure later at your desk.

Birth and death certificates

As mentioned previously, birth and death certificates can provide evidence that a house existed at a particular date. However, it can be quite expensive to purchase a certificate from the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Third-party services can provide a more economical option. Joy Murrin (joymurrin.com.au) is one such, and provides the even cheaper option of a partial transcription.

© Mark Calabretta, 2024. This is edition 1.0 of this document, published under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).